

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 401 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Dean, O'Connor, Cavallini, Hoselton, and Baggett

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Member, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission; Mr. Ryan Noyes, Field Director, Go 21

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action is the approval of the minutes from the January 25, 2005 joint meeting of the Transportation and Land Use and Development Committees. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2005 Joint Transportation and Land Use and Development Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the approval of the minutes from the February 7, 2005 meeting of the Transportation Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Cavallini/Baggett to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2005 Transportation Committee meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the February, 2006 bills. Chairman Bass stated that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills. He asked if there were any questions from the Committee.

**Ms. O'Connor entered the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

**Mr. Dean entered the meeting at 8:14 a.m.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the Committee will be receiving a copy of the credit card statement each month. Mr. Mitchell responded that he has not received the credit card yet. He will pick it up today from the Auditor. It is his understanding that the bill will be received in the Highway Department, it will be coded and forwarded to the Auditor's Office. Mr. Mitchell stated that he can make a copy for the Committee if they wish. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Zeunik if this is standard procedure by any of the other Oversight Committees. Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, responded that the Justice Committee was concerned at first when the Sheriff's Department first obtained a credit card, but there have not been any problems. Mr. Hoselton asked how the credit card charges will show on the bills. Mr. Zeunik responded that the Highway Department will sign off on the credit card statement and the Auditor will pay the bill. On the credit card statement, there will likely be expenses which will be allocated to multiple line items. The Transportation Committee will see the charges in the different line items within the monthly bills. Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to see a copy of the credit card statement. Mr. Mitchell responded that will not be a problem.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend approval of the bills for February, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is appearance by members of the public and/or County employees. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Ryan Noyes, Field Director, Go 21, does not appear on the agenda because he called after the agenda was sent out. He has requested to give a brief presentation to the Committee regarding freight transportation alternatives.

Mr. Noyes introduced himself and gave a brief presentation to the Committee. He informed the Committee that he works closely with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials. He explained that Go 21 (Growth Options for the 21st Century) is a new non-profit public interest organization dedicated to promoting freight transportation alternatives. Mr. Noyes stated that his goal is to discuss the public advantages of freight transportation alternatives at the community level. He stated that he is seeking McLean County's blessing for their fund raising efforts at the State level. Mr. Noyes advised the that his organization is requesting that the Transportation Committee and the County Board endorse and approve a Resolution of Support for their organization at a County Board Meeting.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Mr. Hoselton asked if Go 21 was advocating passenger travel. Mr. Noyes stated that there is a separate grassroots non-profit group that works to promote passenger travel. Mr. Mitchell asked how much money Mr. Noyes' organization is looking to raise. Mr. Noyes responded that they are seeking a half a billion dollars at the State level. Mr. Mitchell asked where that funding would come from. Mr. Noyes responded that that they are seeking State funding. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is concerned that Go 21 is seeking to pull State funds from highway funds. Mr. Mitchell continued that Illinois Counties are very concerned with raids on the Road Fund. Mr. Noyes responded that he really could not answer that question. The State lobbying is primarily done by the Association of American Railroads, and they may be better able to answer such a question. Chairman Bass asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Noyes for his presentation.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is letting results from February 23rd for County and Township projects. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first project is intermittent overlay work throughout the County. The non-MFT construction for the County is for three locations near the Windfarm. That funding is to be repaid by Horizon Wind Energy as per the original agreement. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that he would recommend award of all bids.

Mr. Cavallini asked why there was no bid accepted for work on Lexington Road. Mr. Mitchell responded that all of the bids were over the engineer's estimate. He stated that he has encouraged the Lexington Road District to negotiate with the bidders because the total cost of the work is well below the threshold that requires the project to be re-bid.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Letting Results from a February 23, 2006 Letting for County and Township Projects. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a Resolution for the establishment of an altered Speed Zone for County Highway (CH) 70 (White Oak Road). Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Resolution proposes to lower the speed limit from 55 to 45 from just north of Kletzville north to College Avenue. There is ver heavy traffic on this road. The Highway Department will resurface the road and replace a bridge this summer. There have been quite a few accidents at the intersection of Hovey and White Oak Road. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that by reducing the speed limit, it is hoped that the number of accidents will be reduced.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of a Resolution for the Establishment of an Altered Speed Zone for CH 70 (White Oak Road). Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the items for information. Mr. Mitchell stated that construction is complete. The Highway Department has submitted the final payment estimates, but is waiting for the Illinois Department of Transportation to bill the County for its 20%. The final cost of the project was \$1,397,000.00. Construction has already begun on the Ellsworth Windfarm Box Culverts that were just awarded last month. Both culverts have been removed and the floor has been poured in both.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any other comments or questions. Mr. Hoselton asked why there is a junked van sitting vacant on the Highway Department's property. Mr. Zeunik responded that evidence in a criminal case has to be retained for at least 60 years or until the defendant has exhausted all of his appeals or is deceased.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary